

## Payment New Clinical Laboratory Tests for 2006

Twenty codes for new clinical laboratory tests, established by the Current Procedural Technology (CPT) Editorial Panel, will become effective January 1, 2006. The new testing is for conditions such as coronary heart disease, diabetes, irritable bowel syndrome and virus resistance. To consider how payment levels for these tests should be established for 2006 Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted a public meeting on July 18, 2005. Notice of the meeting was published in the **Federal Register** on May 27, 2005 and on the CMS website on June 20, 2005. Approximately 70 members of the public representing laboratories, manufacturers, medical societies and the press attended. Also, audio listening and a question and answer period was available to the public. Fifteen members of the public presented payment recommendations for the new codes.

A chart summarizing the new codes and the recommendations that were presented during the meeting is attached (clinlabsum06B.xls). Numbering of the codes has not yet been finalized. The chart also displays CMS's proposed determinations regarding whether payment levels are to be established by "gap-filling" or by "cross-walking" and, if the latter, to which other code(s) the new test code would be cross-walked. CMS's proposed determinations are consistent with the public recommendations. Access to the current 2005 Medicare clinical laboratory fee schedule is available at [www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/clinlab](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/clinlab). Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed payment determinations by September 23, 2005, to Anita Greenberg at Mail Stop C4-08-06, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore MD 21244-1850 or [anita.greenberg@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:anita.greenberg@cms.hhs.gov).

The 2006 Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule will be effective for services delivered January 1 to December 31, 2006. CMS will issue instructions and the data file of fees to Medicare carriers/intermediaries for implementation on or after the last week of October 2005. Internet access to the instructions will be available at [www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals). The data file for the 2006 Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule will be available on or after the third week of November 2005 at [www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/clinlab](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/clinlab). For questions, contact Anita Greenberg by phone 410-786-4601 or [anita.greenberg@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:anita.greenberg@cms.hhs.gov).